

Official

4-3-03
3/27/03

7

Amendments to the Claims

1. (original):

A method, comprising controlling utilization of a router resource at the interface between a first number of local area network (LAN) ports and a second number of wide area networks (WAN) links by each LAN port according to bandwidth availability of corresponding bundles of the WAN links assigned to each of the LAN ports and a switching capacity of the router resource.

2. (original):

The method of claim 1 wherein individual ones of the LAN ports are permitted to exceed their fair share of the switching capacity of the router resource if a current switching load due to traffic from all of the LAN ports is less than a maximum switching capacity for the router resource.

3. (original):

The method of claim 1 wherein if a current switching load due to traffic from all of the LAN ports is equal to a maximum switching capacity of the router resource then those of the LAN ports that are attempting to utilize more than their fair share of the bandwidth availability or the switching capacity are throttled back.

4. (original):

The method of claim 3 wherein throttling back to LAN port comprises dropping packets inbound on that port at the packets' entry point to the router resource.

5. (original):

A method, comprising determining, at an entry port of a router resource, whether or not to admit inbound traffic according to a fair allocation distribution scheme that allows traffic to be admitted according to bandwidth availability of a corresponding exit point for the traffic and a current utilization of total switching capacity of the router resource.

6. (original):

The method of claim 5 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows, traffic to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit point exists.

7. (original):

The method of claim 5 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted even if a port of the router resource associated with the traffic is exceeding an allocated amount of the total switching capacity of the router resource so long as the total switching capacity of the router resource has not been attained.

8. (original):

The method of claim 7 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit point exists.

9. (currently amended):

a
cont'd
cont'd
A routing resource ~~configured to provide~~ comprising means for providing fair allocation of switching capacity among a number of input ports thereof according to output bandwidth capacity of output links associated with the input and total switching capacity utilization of the routing resource.

10. (original):

The routing resource of claim 9 wherein the fair allocation is maintained by throttling back those input ports which attempt to exceed the output bandwidth capacity of their associated output links or which attempt to utilize more than their allocated share operating at the total switching capacity.

11. (original):

The routing resource of claim 10 wherein throttling back comprises dropping packets at an ingress point of the routing resource.

12. (currently amended):

A router ~~configured to~~ comprising means for communicatively ~~couple coupling~~ a first number of local area network (LAN) ports with a second number of wide area network (WAN) links according to

bandwidth availability of bundles of the WAN links assigned to each of the LAN ports and a switching capacity of the router.

13. (currently amended):

The router of claim 12 wherein the router ~~is further configured to permit~~ comprises means for permitting individual ones of the LAN ports to exceed their fair share of the switching capacity of a current switching load due to traffic from all the LAN ports is less than a maximum switching capacity of the router.

14. (currently amended):

The router of claim 12 wherein the router ~~is further configured to~~ comprises means for throttle-throttling back those of the LAN ports exceeding their fair share of the switching capacity when a total switching load due to traffic from all of the LAN ports equal to a maximum switching capacity of the router.

15. (original):

The router of claim 14 wherein throttling back a LAN port comprises dropping one or more packets.

16. (currently amended):

Computer-readable medium having a sequence of instructions, the sequences of instructions, when executed by a processor, causing the processor to perform a method comprising ~~configured to permit a router resource to determine-determining,~~ at an entry point of a router resource thereof, whether or not to admit inbound traffic according to

a fair allocation distribution scheme that allows traffic to be admitted according to bandwidth availability of a corresponding exit point for the traffic and a current utilization of total switching capacity of the router resource.

17. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium ~~instructions~~ of claim 16 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit point exists.

18. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium ~~instructions~~ of claim 16 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted even if a port of the router resource associated with that traffic is exceeding an allocated amount of the total switching capacity of the router resource so long as the total switching capacity of the router resource has not been attained.

19. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium ~~instructions~~ of claim 18 wherein the fair allocation scheme allows traffic to be admitted so long as the bandwidth availability of the corresponding exit point exists.

20. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium ~~instructions~~ of claim 16 wherein the fair allocation is maintained by throttling back those input ports which attempt to exceed the output bandwidth capacity of their

associated output links or which attempt to utilize more than their allocated share operating at the total switching capacity.

21. (currently amended):

The computer-readable medium instructions of claim 20 wherein throttling back comprises dropping packets at an ingress point of the routing resource.

22. (currently amended):

The computer-readable instructions-medium of claim 16, as wherein the sequences of instructions is embodied on one of a floppy disk and a CD-ROM ~~computer-readable medium.~~

23. (currently amended):

The computer-readable instructions-medium of claim 16, as wherein the sequences of instructions is embodied in electronic signals transported through a communication medium.